REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 8, 10, 25 and 31, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended Claims 1 – 7, 9, 11 – 24, 26 – 30, 33 – 34 and 36 – 37. Claims 1, 22, and 28 have been amended to specify certain embodiment of the present invention and overcome the rejection. Claims 9, 11, 12, and 26 have been amended to avoid depending on cancelled claims. In addition, Claims 2 – 7, 9, 11 – 24, 26 – 30, 33 – 34 and 36 – 37 have been amended to proper dependent form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amendment. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS:

Claims 1, 22, and 28 have been objected to because of certain informalities. In this amendment, Claims 1, 22 and 28 have been amended to correct the informalities indicated by the Examiner. More specifically, the symbol "-" after "the steps of" has been deleted in Claims 1, 22, and 28. The word "stored" has been corrected to "store" in Claim 22. Therefore, objections have been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 16, 22, 24, 25, 28, 31, 32, 33, 35, and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler et al. (US 6,738,759), hereinafter Wheeler, in view of Barr et al. (US 5,873,076), hereinafter Barr; Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler in view of Barr and in further view of Ng et al. (US 6,424,647), hereinafter Ng; Claims 4, 6, 12, 17, 18, 19, 23, 29, and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler in view of Barr and in further view of Nitta et al. (US 6,154,764), hereinafter Nitta; Claims 9, 11, 13, 14, and 26 have been rejected

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler in view of Barr and in further view of Tsutsumitake et al. (US 6,480,883), hereinafter Tsutsumitake; Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler in view of Barr and in further view of Tsutsumitake and Nitta; Claims 20, 21, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler in view of Barr and in further view of Srinivasan et al. (US 6,460,076), hereinafter Srinivasan; Claims 34 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheeler in view of Barr and in further view of Glogau et al. (US 5,983,351), hereinafter Glogau.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over Wheeler, in view of Barr, and in further view of Ng, Nitta, Tsutsumitake, Srinivasan, or Glogau. Claims 8, 10, 25, and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection to 8, 10, 25, and 31 is moot. In addition, Claims 1, 22, and 28 have been amended to clearly define that "the data at the receiver may be altered and retransmitted back to the database with the same unique ID number via the intermediary server, and only that data that has changed is retransmitted back to the database." All the dependent claims of Claims 1, 22 and 28 also include these features due to their dependency.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not render the embodiments of the present invention as amended obvious. The present invention relates to a method for exchanging information between at least one database and at least one receiver. The exchange of data between the database and the receiver is facilitated by an intermediary server. Data retrieved from a database is provided with an ID and transmitted to the intermediary server. A receiver can then connect to the intermediary server to enable the data to be transmitted to the receiver. The receiver can also transfer data to the database via the intermediary server. However, only information that has been changed by the receiver is transmitted to the intermediary server, from where it can be sent on to the respective database. All information transmitted back to the intermediary server from the receiver retains its ID. By referring to this ID, the intermediary server

can determine the data in the respective database or the receiver and correspondingly re-enter it, overwrite it or delete it, depending on the status.

One of the problems associated with the prior art systems was that there was a significant amount of unnecessary data being transferred from a receiver back to a database. The present invention provides a solution to this problem by only transmitting information to the intermediary server which has been changed by the receiver, from where it is sent on to the respective database. This is a very significant advantage, as it prevents unnecessary data transfer between the receiver and the databases, and thus reduces data traffic. As a result, the efficiency of the communication system is increased.

Barr Reference

Barr relates to information retrieval system. A database is provided for storing documents which have been received by publishers. A user may input a search query to retrieve specific information from the database, for example, a query for information relating to a particular topic or a question. The question is processed to identify documents in the database relevant to the query, and the search results are then transmitted to the user (see Fig. 4).

However, Barr does not address the same problem as that of the present invention, namely, reducing data traffic from the receiver back to the database. Barr is simply concerned with providing an improved searching system, which enables search results to be presented in a manner that facilitates the identification of the most relevant query topic. In fact, the issue of reducing data traffic between a receiver and a database is not relevant to Barr, as most of the data traffic in Barr is from the database to the user, for information retrieval (with exception of the queries, which are sent from the user to the database). Once the information is retrieved, it may only be saved or printed (see col. 15, lines 30 to 47). There is no facility in Barr to amend any of this data and retransmit it back to the database, as this would not be in line with the purpose of Barr, which is purely an information retrieval system. This is in contrast with the system of the present

invention, where a user may be seeking the information in the database not only to review it, but also to change and update it in the database.

Therefore, a skilled artisan, when confronted with the problem addressed by the present invention, would not find the solution of the repent invention obvious in the light of the teaching of Barr and Wheeler (see below), as the combination does not suggest any method of reducing the amount of data traffic between the receiver and the database.

Wheeler Reference

Wheeler is concerned with an optimized search technique which can provide users with fast and accurate search results. This is facilitated through the use of a search hierarchy known as a schema. The schema allows the user to specify the search criteria for similarity searching, such as the similarity weighting to be applied to documents stored in a database. Once the schema is defined, a query can be generated by a user, which allows the user to specify the search criteria for similarity searching and the "scoring" documents for similarity. The query is executed and the resulting documents are sent to the user (see flowchart of Fig. 17).

However, Wheeler is not related to the same problem as that of the present invention of reducing data traffic from the receiver back to the database. Wheeler is only concerned with providing an improved searching system. In Wheeler, this is provided by the user-defined schema. As in the case of Barr, there is also no information transfer in the direction from the receiver to the database, other than the queries. Therefore, the teaching of Wheeler in combination of Barr would not lead a person of ordinary skill in the art when confronted with the problem address by the present invention to the solution provided by the present invention.

Combination of Wheeler and Barr

The features of the present invention as defined in amended Claims 1, 22, 28 and their dependent claims are not obvious over the combination of Wheeler and Barr. As
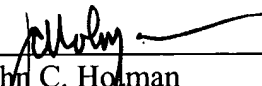
stated above, Wheeler and Barr are both concerned with problems that are different from the problems addressed by the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation to combine Wheeler with Barr and other references. Even if they are combined, they will not render the present invention as mended obvious. Neither of these references suggests any method of reducing the data traffic from the receiver to the database. Therefore, the newly presented claims are not obvious over Wheeler, in view of Barr, and in further view of Ng, Nitta, Tsutsumitake, Srinivasan, or Glogau. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Date: February 14, 2005   By_____
(202) 638-6666   John C. Holman
400 Seventh Street, N.W.   Registration No. 22,769
Washington, D.C. 20004
Atty. Dkt. No.: P66813US0